

# MISSOULA'S Y. W. C. A. IS FILLING A LONG-FELT WANT



NELLE HOUSTON.

The Young Women's Christian association, although young in Missoula, has already proved its worth in the community. Bringing a wealth of experience from its world-wide organization under the leadership of women possessing the highest degree of culture, executive ability and great-hearted Christian sympathy, the association here has begun simply and in a small way to meet the needs of the young women of the city. It has been made welcome by rich and poor, by young and old of all church affiliations.

A little less than two years ago, Miss Frances Gage, secretary of the northwest territory of the Young Women's Christian association, arrived in Missoula in response to a call from a few women to come and assist them in forming an organization of young women, that they might be brought in closer contact with one another. The work was immediately begun, and by April of the same year Miss Lillian Long, a member of the national board, had arrived and completed the organization.

The institution has been very fortunate in having, since its beginning, Miss Nelle Houston as its secretary. She is deserving of great credit for the splendid work accomplished, largely through her instrumentality. She is loved by the girls for her kind and sympathetic nature, and for her many womanly qualities.

A board of directors, including 21 influential women of the city works in conjunction with the secretaries to make plans for the organization, and furnish inspiration to the girls. At present this board consists of: Mesdames C. L. F. Kellogg, president; George Fox, secretary; E. E. Hershby, treasurer; J. N. Maclean; T. A. Fitzgerald; A. J. Gibson; Julius Crill; J. B. Henley; Frank Keith; M. R. C. Smith; J. P. Lansing; H. E. High; T. B. Thompson; M. J. Elrod; J. B. Nottingham; W. F. Wayne; Elers Koch; E. P. Dodds; L. C. Plant; B. H. Van Spanckereen.

The home of the organization since its founding has been the Columbia flats, on East Cedar street. At first only two flats were used, but as the work developed, it has become necessary to enlarge, and the remaining flats were added, making in all 15 bedrooms, two public rest and reading rooms, an office, a cafeteria, with kitchen, dining room, a house parlor, and a gymnasium with dressing room. The association feels now that its quarters are more nearly adequate for the large work before it.

The purpose and scope of the work of the city Young Women's Christian association is fourfold—a normal and happy development of the physical, intellectual, social and religious interests of its members and protection and assistance to any young women in need. This purpose is being carried out in the big broad way that reaches girls in all walks of life. The organization is essentially democratic in form, and while the work is directed by an able body of mature women, the committee work is done by the girls themselves. In order to carry out the purpose of the Y. W. C. A., its interest and activities are varied.

The home, consisting of the upper floor of the five apartments, accommodates from 15 to 20 girls. This is the largest home among the smaller associations in the northwest. The girls of the home are organized, have their president, and meet each week to discuss important questions pertaining to the home and welfare of its occupants. In this home are found girls of varied interests and occupations, living congenially together in a healthy environment. A parlor is reserved for their use, where they may receive and entertain their company.

For wholesome fun, real recreation and work in physical expression, there is the gymnasium class, which meets each week under the able direction of Mrs. G. R. Reynolds. The work is much the same as given at the university and its aim is to give grace and poise and harmony of movement besides recreation in games and folk dances. No one who watches the gym class through its hour of work can doubt that the girls are more alert and responsive to the demands that may be made upon them because of the control resulting from the general exercises.

The domestic tastes and ambitions of the young women are not overlooked. A live and interesting class in cookery is held every Thursday evening. Miss Lucile Brewer in her entertaining and at the same time practical demonstrations and recipes makes cooking a real fascination.

On Wednesday evening of each week Mrs. M. Palsgrove meets an enthusiastic class in Christmas fancy work, embroidery and all lines of needlework.

The Young Women's Christian association believes also in fun and good times and offers opportunities for girls to make lasting and profitable friendships. The added gymnasium and recreation room makes possible many pleasant social occasions. One of the most interesting held this fall was the Halloween costume party when about 75 revelers enjoyed fun and frolic to the utmost. The Japanese fete, held on the 23rd of November was both pleasant and profitable. The booths were artistically decorated for the oc-



TYPICAL OF PLEASANT ROOMS.



ALICE SHEPARD.



MRS. C. L. F. KELLOGG.



ELLEN SYMINGTON.



IN THE CAFETERIA.

casion, and young women dressed in Japanese costume sold novelties and served tea to the patrons. On Thanksgiving day a delicious turkey dinner was served to 32 young women, seated about a daintily decorated table. After due honor had been paid to the menu, appropriate toasts were given. In the evening a clever cist presented "The Burglar" to an enthusiastic audience. The remainder of the evening was spent in music, games and a general good time.

This aim of the religious department, avoiding stereotyped methods, is to bring to each young woman a realization that no part of her life lies outside her religious life and that a wholesome and happy development of her spiritual powers goes with her physical and intellectual development. To this end there is held on the second and fourth Mondays in the month a large Bible study class conducted by Rev. H. S. Staley of the Episcopal church, who in his interesting and scholarly interpretation makes Bible study worth while and religion very real. Religious meetings are held on every other Sunday afternoon. On the first and third Sundays of the month an informal "Sunday at Home" with a musical program, social intercourse and an

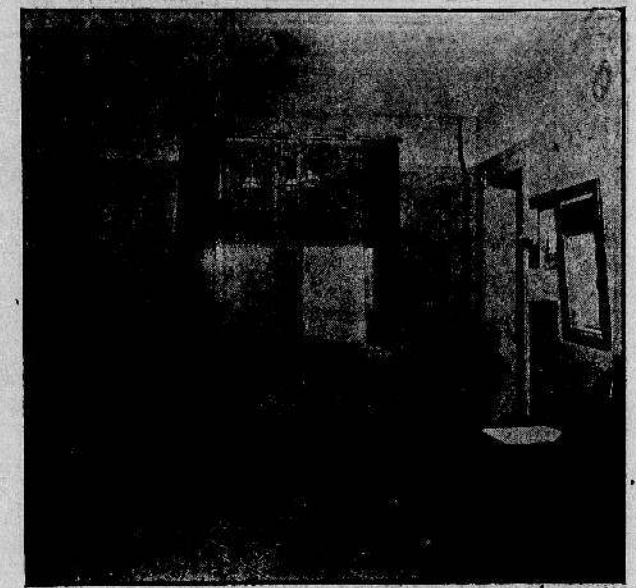
inspirational talk, takes place. Alternating with this is a more formal Vesper service, led by one of the young women, and followed by a discussion of the topic. Perhaps one of the most interesting departments of the association is that of the camp fire girls. Mrs. Elers Koch is chief guardian of the order here. To this order belong six groups of high school girls, with 12 in each group, and two groups in the seventh and eighth grades. Each group has its own special name and chosen leader. These leaders are Misses James, Ronan, Jamison, Wright, Johnson, Houston and Shepard. The object sought in this great movement is to add the power of organization and that of romance to health, work, and play. The law of the campfire girls is, "Seek beauty, give service, pursue knowledge, be trustworthy, hold on to health, glorify work, be happy." To enter into full

membership, a girl must first become a wood-gatherer, then a fire-maker, and lastly a torch-bearer. Excursions are made into the woods, and, along with fun and frolic, there are taught lessons which are practical and moral in the big school of life. One of the first steps taken by the Young Women's Christian association in Missoula was the establishment of an employment agency, in order to assist strange girls, or anyone in need of aid, in obtaining work. The aim is to study the different personalities, in order to place the girl where she seems best fitted, that she may be happy and successful in her work. This work affords ample opportunity for these in charge to assist the girls in finding companionable friends.

The cafeteria, which was started early in the history of the association, has proven very successful. From a small beginning it has grown rapidly,

and is now patronized not only by the members of the association but also by business men and women of the city. Miss Alice Shepard, secretary of this department, is worthy of all the praise bestowed upon her. She is diligent in her planning for the cafeteria. The number of meals served daily is now several times that at the beginning. It is self-supporting, which means a great deal, since the price of the meals is placed at a figure low enough to be within the reach of all. The meals are well cooked and wholesome. As a popular eating place the cafeteria ranks among the foremost in the city. This is quite encouraging, and reflects much credit on its management.

The travelers' aid department of the Y. W. C. A. is the most recent development of the work in Missoula. With the co-operation of the Northern Pacific railway it is possible to place a woman at the station to meet



THE Y. W. C. A. PARLORS.



THE GYMNASIUM CLASS.

all of the Northern Pacific evening trains to aid women and girls who are traveling alone. The work now is in the hands of Miss Ellen Symington and many varied are her opportunities for helping the traveler. In the two months that the work has been established about 75 women and girls have been aided in different ways through this department, besides innumerable inquiries answered. The casual visitor at the station scarcely realizes the large number of troubled, overburdened, and bewildered travelers who are passing through even so small a station as Missoula. Many are the expressions of appreciation for assistance rendered but there are those who sometimes show their independence and hurt dignity when assistance is offered. The travelers' aid of Missoula co-operates with organizations of the same nature in eastern cities so that a stranger or foreigner starting westward this organization is notified and the travelers' aid meets her and renders any necessary assistance.

Not a few are the inquiries that come through the mail to the Y. W. C.

A. Mothers anxious to know about their daughters away from home, messages of gratitude for some service rendered, inquiries about work or business prospects, or someone endeavoring to locate a friend. Letters have been received from France and England from young women inquiring about positions, employers and general conditions.

An interesting panorama is a busy day at the association building. There are inquiries after all sorts of information—"Where can I find a good doctor?" "Would you answer this advertisement?" "Do you know Miss Blank, and where she works?" The young homelick girl comes looking for work. A tired traveler has dropped in to rest between trains. A mother with a small child must be helped to find employment. A group of happy girls are spending a few moments of leisure around the piano. A committee in another room is planning the next party, a stranger in the city wishes to use the telephone, and so the picture moves on, each day bringing new opportunities and new problems.

## Suffragists Are Active in Missoula



EQUAL SUFFRAGE COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Sitting, left to right—Miss Mary Stewart, Mrs. R. D. Prescott, Mrs. S. L. B. Clements, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Mossman, Miss Rankin, Mrs. Ector, Miss Zurr.

Standing, front row—Mrs. Vealey, Mrs. Angevine.

Standing, back row—Mrs. Albert Butzerin, Miss Edna Hollenstainer, Mrs. Beacom, Mrs. Addison Sterling of Ronan, Mrs. Tylar Thompson.

The year of 1912 has brought an awakening on the subject of equal suffrage to the women of Missoula. The question has been considered by them with more or less of interest for a long time, but never before has a sympathetic campaign been undertaken.

One of the slogans used by eastern enthusiasts for the cause is, "Nine

states already won. The Dakotas, Montana and Nevada next." With this aim in view, the members of the Montana state central committee will be in Helena on the first day that the legislature convenes and take measures to get a bill passed authorizing an amendment to the state constitution to be voted upon by the people at the

next general election.

The leader in the state campaign is Miss Jeanette Rankin of this city. Miss Rankin has had a remarkable career for so young a woman. Having a desire to enter upon some form of social service that would be of definite practical value, she went from Missoula to New York city and took up a

course of study in the School of Philanthropy there maintained. It was while in New York that Miss Rankin became interested in the movement for women's suffrage. Her talents were recognized by suffrage leaders there, and she was at once impressed into service. She was summoned to the Pacific coast to assist in the campaign made for equal suffrage in Washington and California. After she had helped to win a victory in each of those states, Miss Rankin was given a very flattering call to assist in a campaign in Ohio. Her heart was given to Montana, however, and she refused the call to Ohio in order to remain and work for her native state. Since then several other requests have come to Miss Rankin, strengthened by liberal offers of remuneration, for her work in eastern states. She prefers to stand by her native state, even though here she is working at her own expense without any remuneration whatsoever.

Miss Rankin has, during the last few months, visited 15 counties of Montana, and she is now on her way through those remaining. Under her leadership Butte was organized by precincts, with Mrs. William Roza as general chairman. In the capital city there are eight organizations, one for each of the seven wards of Helena and one for East Helena. At White Sulphur Springs, Mrs. McKay, the county chairman, has general oversight of the work being done.

The plan of organization which is followed wherever a campaign is undertaken is first to call a meeting in each precinct and elect a precinct committee woman. Then all the committee women in a county form the county central committee and elect the county chairman. All the county chairmen form the state central committee and elect a state chairman. The duties assigned these leaders are the following:

The precinct leader is to see that the precinct is canvassed and that a list of suffragists is sent to the county chairman; to hold precinct meetings to convert persons doubtful; to attend meetings of the county central committee and to carry out plans there formulated; the chairman of the county central committee is to call meetings of the county committee; to attend to meetings of the state central committee and to carry out plans made there. The chairman of the state central committee is to superintend legislative work and to keep the state central committee in close touch with all the possibilities and needs of the campaign.

In Missoula large and enthusiastic

meetings have been held and organizations completed in each of the city precincts and also in Lolo and Ronan. The leaders chosen are: Mrs. J. A. Vealey for the First precinct, Mrs. Tylar B. Thompson for the Second, Miss Alice Woody and Mrs. R. W. Anderson for the Third, Mrs. Henry Mossman for the Fourth, Mrs. Albert Butzerin for the Fifth, Mrs. W. E. Beacom for the Sixth, Mrs. E. L. P. Ector for the Seventh, Mrs. A. L. Hanson for the Eighth, Mrs. J. B. S. Clements for Orchard Homes, Mrs. R. D. Prescott for Park addition, Mrs. Edna Hollenstainer for Lolo and Mrs. Addison Sterling for Ronan. Of the county central committee, Miss Mary Stewart was chosen chairman; Miss Zurr, secretary; Mrs. Tylar Thompson, treasurer, and Miss Alice Woody, chairman of the committee on literature. There is a plan on foot to have the likeness of the famous Indian woman, Sacajewea, accepted as the emblem of Montana women in their campaign for suffrage.

Of the arguments placed before the citizens of Montana and the legislators at Helena, in behalf of the request for suffrage, Montana women have none more potent than that printed as an editorial in the National Forum for September 25, 1912. The editorial is headed "Time Wake Up," and it is an appeal to saloon men and brewers to unite to defeat an amendment granting the right of suffrage to the women of Montana. It says:

"All of the political parties in Montana have declared that the question of woman suffrage must be submitted to the voters of the state, and this will be done at the session of the legislature next January. It is time the saloon men and brewers should brush the cobwebs from their eyes and wake up to their danger. With the women voting on local option it is doubtful if the best saloon or brewery in the state would be worth ten cents for business purposes so far as the liquor traffic is concerned. For the past four years the saloon has been warned as to the prohibition wave of which woman suffrage is the forerunner. Many saloon men and brewers have believed the warnings, and are assisting in fortifying against the rushing tide of sentiment against their business, but there are still a number who are doing nothing except waiting for their own business destruction. A brewery plant like the Centennial of Butte would not be worth 25 cents on the dollar with women voting in a local option contest. Within two years the question of women voting in Montana will be put direct to the people of the state to decide. Just what that decision will be depends upon the effort put forth

against woman suffrage by those who are interested. Women are largely dominated by the clergy. They will vote principally according to sentiment and emotion. Whatever the church opposes they will oppose. The church will be against the saloons and the women will vote against the saloon and brewery. That's why saloon men and brewers should awake to their business interests and see the danger that confronts them. In many states they have waited until it is too late, and many of them have been voted into bankruptcy. That same thing may happen in Montana. It depends upon the activity of those engaged in the business. Now is the time to act. Get in with your association, and don't let it be said that your inactivity and stupidity brought on your own financial ruin."

Another remarkably terse and forceful statement of the facts upon which the present campaign for equal suffrage is based, is found in the resolutions passed by the first congress of the International Men's League for Women's Suffrage, held recently in London:

"The first congress of the Men's International Alliance for Woman Suffrage desires to call the attention of men of all nations to the serious economic effects upon their wages and security of employment arising from the steadily increasing employment of unorganized and unrepresented women, who necessarily accept a lower scale of remuneration for equal work. It points out that the granting of women's enfranchisement in 12 countries and states of Europe, and the United States and Australasia, has been followed in almost every case by steps towards equalization in the rates of remuneration of men and women in many professions and trades; and it regards the enfranchisement of women in other countries as vitally necessary in order to secure economic equality, and thus to check the displacement of men by women, which will inevitably continue if the latter are not given equal responsibility and power as citizens."

"That this congress calls attention to the serious evils to the race consequent upon the white slave traffic and the social subordination of women, and considers that the enfranchisement of women is imperatively demanded in order to obtain rational and just legislation and administration concerning these matters. It points out that in every country where woman's suffrage has been passed, the age of consent has been considerably raised and the white slave traffic has been greatly reduced."